**Deck Terminology**

**Balusters** — The vertical boards that attach to the handrails. Sometimes called spindles.

* **Beams** — The horizontal boards that are attached to the post to help carry the weight.
* **Box Sill** — In a building frame it is composed of a plate resting on the basement wall and a joist or header at the outer edge of the plate, as well as a soleplate for the studs resting either directly on the joists or on the rough flooring.
* **Decking** — The boards that span the area over the joists and form the deck floor.
* **Foundation** — Either a concrete pad or post installed on footers.
* **Furring Boards** — Long thin strips of wood used to make existing surfaces support the finished surface, in this case the deck.
* **Handrails** — The horizontal boards that provide safety.
* **Joists** — Typically 2 x 8 boards that are installed perpendicular and between beams to help distribute weight and hold up the decking boards. Joists are usually installed 16 or 24 inches apart.
* **Rise** — Rise is the height of the step
* **Run** — Run is the depth of the step
* **Staircase Landing** — Usually part of the decking plan.
* **Stringers** — The boards that support stairs.
* **Support Posts** — 4 x 4 or 6 x 6 posts that are installed to support the weight of the deck.

**Treads** — The top boards on a stair.